

Does God Have a Right?

Transforming Grace Series

October 18, 2026

Imagine for a moment that you have worked hard for several years to save enough money to buy a car, while your close friend's father simply handed her money for a new car.

- How do you feel toward your friend?
How do you feel about your own circumstances?
- How do you think you should feel?
- What do you think of the friend's father?



In Christ, we are not only saved by grace, but we also live by grace.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? - Romans 8:32

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. - Eph 1:3

What are some of the blessings He has promised to bless us with?

Two Main Thoughts

- All blessings are given freely to us, also through faith in Jesus Christ.
- God deals with His children on the basis of grace without regard to merit or demerit.

Case study: The Generous Vineyard Owner

Matthew 20:1-16 The Parable of the Vineyard Workers

1 For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. **3** “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. **4** He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ **5** So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ **7** “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ **9** “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. **10** So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. **11** When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. **12** ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’

14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. **15** Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ **16** “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

OWNER'S PERSPECTIVE

- It's not just about wages earned, but meeting a need, by grace.
- The generous owner is more concerned with the welfare of the workers than the work.

WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

- The owner is being unfair with his generosity
- Those who work more deserves more pay

God's Generosity

³⁸They will be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. ⁴⁰I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will **never stop doing good to them**, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. ⁴¹I will **rejoice in doing them good** and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul. - *Jeremiah 32:38-41*

¹⁰And the **God of all grace**, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. - *1 Peter 5:10*

¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. - *2 Peter 3:18*

How have you seen God's generosity in your life?

Worker's Perspective

Was the vineyard owner unfair?

- Which group didn't think the owner was unfair?
- Why did the other groups feel that they deserve more than what was agreed?
- Which group do you identify with?
- Why do people tend to think of the owner as unfair instead of generous?
- What can we observe about human nature and how people tend to respond to good fortune of others?

Owner: "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?" - Matt 20:15

Fairness and Deserving

- “We can never obligate God by our obedience or sacrificial service.”
- OUR DUTY: “In the same way, when you have done all that you were commanded, you should say, “We are unworthy servants; we’ve only done our duty.” - Luke 17:10
- “As the sovereign Ruler of the universe, God has the right to require perfect obedience and faithful service from all of us without in the least obligating Himself. We owe Him such obedience and service.”

Entitlement vs Contentment

Living by merit-demerit vs Living by God's grace

- “See the two groups of laborers as they severally wend their way home that evening. As to amount of money in their pockets, they are all equal: but as to amount of content in their spirits there is a great difference. The last go home each with a penny his pocket, and astonished glad gratitude in his heart: their reward accordingly is a penny, and *more*. The first, on the contrary, go home each with a penny in his pocket, and corroding discontent in his soul: their reward accordingly is less than a penny” - William Arnot, *Parables of our Lord*
- Being content means we understand that God doesn't owe me anything. Whatever He has given is given by His grace alone.

Entitlement vs Contentment

Living by merit-demerit vs Living by God's grace

What does it look like practically?

- “I worked hard and prayed hard for this job opportunity, and have been reading the Bible. Why did I still not get the job? I think I earned it!”
- “I got into a car accident this morning. Was it because I forgot to my morning devotions?”

What does it look like practically?

- “I come to read my Bible today not because I desire blessings from you, but because You love me and Your words are precious to me, and I’m thankful to be Your child.”

When we pray, and bring our needs to God, what is the basis of our request? Is it our spiritual disciplines, our obedience, sacrifices, OR the infinite and perfect merit of Jesus?

Stop Comparing

Alter the default psyche

- Do we rejoice when God's generous grace is directed on us, our family, friends, church? But when it's directed towards others do we still rejoice?
- Are we envious when in God's generosity and sovereignty, others seem more blessed than we are?
- Can you accept when God's generous blessings are directed to those you seem unworthy?

MAIN POINTS

- **All blessings are given freely to us, also through faith in Jesus Christ**
- **God deals with His children on the basis of grace without regard to merit or demerit**
- “If we are to succeed in living by grace, we must come to terms with the fact that God is sovereign in dispensing His gracious favors, and He owes us no explanation when His actions do not correspond with our systems of merits”
- *Jerry Bridges*
- “Blessings that at times come to us through our labors and at times without our labors, but never because of our labors; for God always gives them because of His undeserved mercy.”
- *Martin Luther*